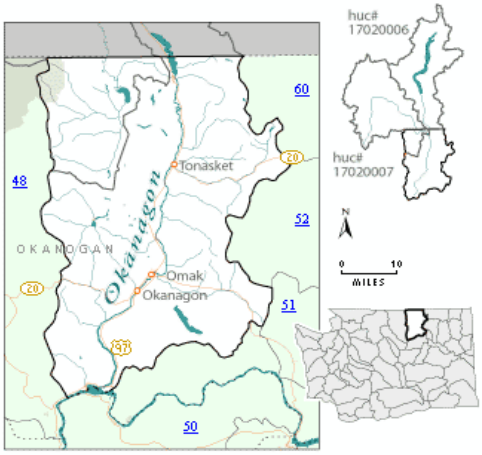
Okanogan Basin - WRIA #49

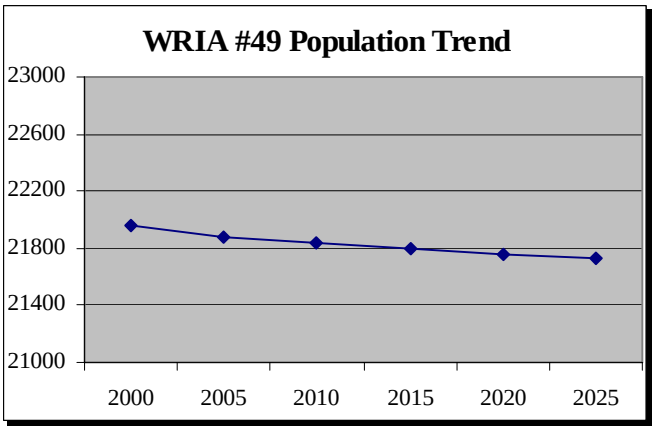


Watershed Description

WRIA #49 drains about 1,342,132 acres. This watershed is within the Columbia Basin, Cascades, and Northern Rockies. High, glaciated ridges, plateaus, and U-shaped valleys with numerous wetlands. Permanent and intermittent streams are high gradient. Soils are typically fine sandy loam to stony coarse sandy loam. Potential natural vegetation is shrub alpine meadow, mixed sub-alpine fir, with some Douglas-fir at lower elevations. Average rainfall is 15 inches per year. The mean low/high temperatures are 13/27° in winter and 45/70° in summer.

Population

There are approximately 21,918 people living in the Okanogan Basin. The primary population centers are Omak and Okanogan. The majority of people live in unincorporated areas. The population graph reflects the combined projected population of those counties located within the watershed (Office of Financial Management population projections).



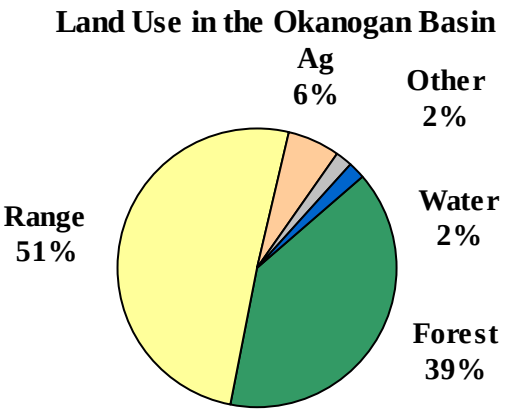
Counties	% of basin
Okanogan	100%

Tribal Reservation Lands in WRIA #49
Colville Confederated Tribes

Land ownership for WRIA #49 includes federal, state, tribal, and private lands. Data was derived from the Public Lands Survey by Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Land Ownership	Acres	Proportion
Federal	235,870	17.6%
State	235,870	20.5%
Local	0	0%
Tribal	279,385	20.8%
Private	551,482	41.1%

Land use in the Okanogan Basin is mainly forestry, range, and agriculture related uses. The general type of known land-use activities[1] within the watershed is graphed according to the percentage of its occurrence.



[1] Category "other" may include perennial ice/snow, bare rock/sand/clay, quarries/strip mines/gravel pits, transitional, barren, and/or wetland areas.

The primary towns and cities in WRIA #49 include Omak, Okanogan, Brewster, and Oroville.

Legislative and Congressional Districts

To determine your region's legislative or congressional district, see:

http://www1.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx

To determine **Latitude/Longitude coordinates,** see:

http://www.topozone.com/

(Make sure you set the button on the bottom of the page to D/M/S - hold the cursor over a spot on the map and the coordinates show at the bottom of the screen.)

Several federal programs refer to watersheds according to their Hydrological Unit Code (HUC). To learn more about your watershed and determine which **HUC** your town or county is located in, see:

http://water.usgs.gov/wsc/

Water Quality

Water Quality Assessment

The statewide Water Quality Assessment categorizes waterbody segments that have water quality data available. The Simple Query Tool and interactive mapping tool allow you to search for specific categories, water bodies, pollutant parameters, and other information, in whatever combination you choose. **WRIA #49** has six (6) known Category 5 (impaired) water bodies.

To view the Water Quality Assessment, use the Simple Query Tool.

http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wats/WATSQBEHome.asp

To view the Water Quality Assessment by Category, choose the Category (1 – 5) you are interested in from the drop down box. To view it by Water Resource Inventory Resource Area (WRIA), choose the WRIA number you are interested in from the drop down box.

Use the Interactive Mapping Tool to see a graphic representation of the Water Quality Assessment. This is a Geographic Information System (GIS) application that helps you find waters you are interested in and information about problems in that water body.

http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wqawa/viewer.htm

Domestic Water Supply

No significant use of surface water sources. For further information regarding water supplies, see:

http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/default.htm

Salmonid Stock Status

Good water quality is important to help salmon survive and thrive. To find out which salmon species are listed as threatened or endangered in a region, see:

http://www.governor.wa.gov/gsro/regions/map.htm

Air Quality

Water quality can be affected by air quality; for example, windblown dust from construction sites or bare, dry agricultural lands, especially fallow fields, may be transported to waterways. For information about air quality, see:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/Windblown_dust_information.htm

TMDLs and Other Watershed-Based Plans

For information about Total Maximum Daily Loads (**TMDLs**) in your area, see:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/

To learn more about **watershed planning** in Washington State, see:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/watershed/index.html

For **funding applicants,** other useful links can be found at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/links.html